

MEDIA ADVISORY



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Wetland Restoration Site Goes to Education

INDIANAPOLIS, April 11, 2008 – A 1250 acre site along the Wabash River near West Terre Haute will be purchased and about half will be restored to its native condition. And, at an event Tuesday afternoon, April 15 Governor Daniels will present a check for \$295,000 to the Vigo County Parks Commission to help purchase the site. The event is open to the public.

When: Tuesday, April 15, 2008
Time: 3:15 p.m.
Where: West Vigo Elementary School
501 West Olive Street, in West Terre Haute.

The Governor will be presenting the check on behalf of the Indiana Heritage Trust and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife. The contribution will hem together the work laid down by the Wabash River Development and Beautification Committee and will bring their efforts closer to reality. The majority of the funding for the wetland will be from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program which is buying easements on 691 acres of the site. Also a combination of private and public funds from Vigo County Community Development, and other private contributions have made this project possible.

The wetland area is located between the cities of Terre Haute and West Terre Haute, south of US 40, along the west bank of the Wabash River. This area will be managed for migratory waterfowl and other native wetland species that are found in the Wabash River corridor. Areas of shallow water marsh, moist soil wetland, native grasses and shrubs and trees that are essential to native wildlife will be part of the finished wetland development. These improvements will also contribute to filtering storm water run off and serve as a flood control.

Recreational opportunities such as Hiking/Biking trails, observation decks/areas, boat ramp and other recreational amenities will be incorporated into the park design on the non-federal WRP easement lands adjoining the property. Environmental education opportunities will also exist for the students Vigo County School Corporation, Indiana State University, St. Mary of the Woods and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. This area will be used as a research area for these local universities. The close proximity of this area to the City of Terre Haute will provide these students with easy access to the park.

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department has also established opportunities through the Wabash Valley Community Foundation for private donations to be directed toward additional land purchases and management expenses surrounding this unique wetland area. This is a wonderful opportunity to involve local citizens, private industry, Local, State and Federal Government agencies to work together to restore this large parcel of land to its original Indiana landscape condition through this permanent easement.

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